

# ST. THOMAS MORE PARISH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, March 10, 2003

**In Attendance:** Fr. Bill Wagner, David Lees, Jerry Cain, Duane Bradley, Peggy Fangman, Dee Archer, Matt Mallot, Rhonda Roberts, Michelle Stultz, Darline Foltz, Diane Brennan, Carl Lamping, Barbara Schmidt and Mike Gennett.

**Absent:** Bob Guenther, Vic Ivers, Ray Neltner, Peg Fischer, Linda Young (all excused).

Five out of eight voting members were present.

The St. Thomas More Parish Council meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM EST by President David Lees. Fr. Bill opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** David Lees briefly reviewed the minutes of the February 10th meeting. It was requested that the conversation regarding the Parish Office be removed from the minutes. (The notes have been corrected in the Internet file.) The remainder of the minutes of the meeting stood as written.

**Yahoo Groups:** It was also stated that the minutes in the future will be restricted to the voting and non-voting members in the Yahoo groups Internet network. The minutes will not be posted or distributed to anyone until the following council meeting approves them.

Many in attendance reported that the various groups did an excellent job of filing their minutes on the Yahoo Groups network in advance of the meeting. It was determined that the Yahoo Groups Internet site is clearly successful. (The group reports are not mentioned in these minutes unless a specific topic contained was openly discussed.)

It was also stated that care needs to be taken when using Yahoo Groups. Too many people are answering a message intended for one individual but are being sent to everyone. The "TO" address needs to be changed to include only the email address of the party you wish to write.

**Finance Report:** Mike Gennett gave the Finance Report. A \$150,000.00 payment on the debt was made on February 21 which dropped the debt level to \$1,125,000.00. 34% of the debt level as of August 2000 has been paid in the last two and one-half years.

The Finance Committee met on March 6. The committee discussed the following:

- There has been a short term improvement in the Sunday collections since Fr. Bill's letter went out in mid-January. The collection the two previous Sundays (March 2 and 9) were particularly strong. Over 600 envelopes were returned which is the first time outside of Christmas in nearly a year.
- The Finance Committee requested that a letter be sent to all new parishioners who joined the parish since 1999 detailing the purpose of the Vision 2000 envelope and invite them to contribute.
  - Carl Lamping at Parish Council challenged as to why this letter was not going out to the entire parish population. Duane Bradley mentioned he was not certain we should spend the postage to mail a letter to all parishioners. Others stated maybe there should be a bulletin insert.
  - Mike Gennett stated this was a different approach than requested by the Finance Committee and he and Fr. Bill would discuss the matter prior to executing.
- A five year budget had been reviewed and the budget for 2003-4 was approved.
- Tim Jossart was assigned to the school marketing committee to help market the school so classes can be filled to the maximum level. This helps to bring in more revenue while expenses remain flat.

- School tuition was approved at \$1,895.00 per child. The school will communicate the tuition rates this week to the families. Neighboring parishes are also raising tuition by similar amounts.
- The weekend of May 17-18 was established as a Financial Stewardship weekend. A member of the Finance Committee will be speaking at all the Masses.
- A Developmental Committee will be formed to look at other types of revenue for the parish.
- An offer will be made on the property at 804 Ohio Pike.

Mike also discussed he had just attended a meeting regarding HIPAA. The new law goes into effect on April 14 and would cover employer/employee privacy matters as well as school records. Protecting privacy will be critical in what you can discuss or share.

**Worship Committee** – The only comment made was that the Worship Committee will now meet on Thursday nights.

**DRE Report** – No one received the DRE report via Yahoo groups. Mike Gennett agreed to forward the copy he received.

**Boosters** – The Boosters requested permission on how to retire Pete Tekulve’s basketball jersey possibly along with a picture.

David Lees proposed that Parish Council should make a policy regarding matters of this nature rather than make an exception. Fr. Bill suggested possible use of the lobby to hang the jersey.

The discussion turned to having a memorial garden area as suggested by the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. David Lees said there would be no definitive answer at this time. Many stated the precedent of starting to put up pictures of deceased children in the gym was not the way to go.

Duane Bradley proposed that the Boosters be allowed to hang Pete's retired jersey in the gym without a picture. It was also proposed that the Memorial area be looked into. Barb Schmidt seconded the motion. Council voted 5 to 0 to proceed.

**Security Task Force** - A brief update was made by the security task force. They held a meeting since the last council meeting. The decision was made by the task force to look at some of the systems that had been installed in similar environments. The group is waiting for a final answer from the vendors as to the locations to visit.

Gary Rafel in the Archdiocese office was contacted by Carl Lamping regarding his view on the topic. Gary felt that a card reader access system was the approach that should be taken.

Dick Schuler was also approached regarding a legal viewpoint. Dick feels circumstances would work more favorably in our behalf if we do not do anything to tighten security. We could be more at risk of litigation if we did something to tighten security. Right now, anyone who enters our building would be viewed as an "independent intervening act" that we were unable to stop. He feels what we need to do is to put up signs in our buildings warning of "unauthorized entry" not being allowed. Dick's view is if we put a card reader system or anything else in would create a change in our operation. If a system is installed, we would create an illusion that security has tightened. If a mistake is made, or something is done out of the ordinary, we could be setting us up for more serious issues.

There was some discussion how seriously Dick's viewpoint should be taken. Peggy Fangman felt that Dick's view was very important since he knows the legal ins and outs and we need to seriously consider his advice.

A further report would be made at the next council meeting on the topic.

**St. Vincent de Paul** - Matt Malott stated that the group is in need of additional funds. Many requests for rent are coming in. Jerry Cain said we needed to work with other agencies in the area. It was also mentioned that St. Bernadette Parish is not always following up on their calls which sometimes moves the call to us.

**Scouts** - The scouts report they had over \$1,100 in sales last Friday, March 7. The event had gone very well.

**PTO** - Reported scripts were way off. The suggestion was made to get Amy Stricker to help market the scripts program.

**Bingo** - Darline Foltz requested that two additional Bingos be held on Thursday nights as benefits. One would be a benefit for the St. Vincent de Paul/Carns Foundation. The other would be a benefit to support the school Library. This would also give us a chance to review the results of a Thursday night Bingo as previously discussed in the past. The Bingos would be scheduled on Thursday nights that shows no scheduled event in the Parish Hall.

Duane Bradley proposed that Bingo be allowed to have two sessions on Thursday night. Matt Malott seconded the motion. Council voted 5 to 0 to accept the proposal.

**Julyfest** - Rhonda Roberts gave a brief update. She discussed the sponsor problem for the Eastside Bingo. There will be a meeting on March 11 with the Archdiocese at our parish to discuss the matter.

\$2,700 had already been collected for the major award program.

Duane Bradley reported that Ray Neltner was the only council member who had responded regarding the Parish Council Festival booth. If any member wants to give some input, please get a hold of Duane.

**Parish Census** - Was determined to have been a non-event. Only 28 responses have been received.

**Revised Constitution** - David Lees discussed the proposed change to the Constitution. The proposal was to change the process of appointing

members to selecting them through a parish voting process. Barb Schmidt proposed making a change to the constitution as proposed. Peg Fangman seconded the motion. The vote was 5 to 0 to accept the change.

**Pastor's Report** – Fr. Bill reported there was no change regarding his situation and the crisis in the Middle East.

Fr. Bill reported that Fr. Joe was ill and has to be off his feet. Once Fr. Joe can no longer come to the parish, he would have to consider retirement from the Army.

There was a meeting earlier in the day regarding the future allocation of priests. No answers were determined. The Deanery is waiting for the full committee to report for determining any new plans. After the next year or so, there is no answer to the next steps in the Deanery.

The house purchase at 804 Ohio Pike is proceeding.

The modular move is currently set for this Friday, March 14. Mike Gennett offered to take anyone through the modular after the meeting who wished to see them.

**Other** – Duane Bradley reported that the RCIA program was doing an excellent job and word of mouth was good. Fr. Bill reported we already had some folks for next year.

**Sunday Mass/Parking Issues** - The issue of Sunday Mass times and the situation in the parking lot was discussed in detail. David Lees reported he had someone very upset with him on Sunday, March 2, who had been driving around the parking lot trying to find a space for 15 minutes. There was no parking anywhere to be found. It was reported that even those cars in the handicap spaces did not have a sticker displayed.

Two issues were discussed that were causing the problem: (1) The 10:30 Mass continues to run beyond one hour. On March 2, Mass went over 1

hour and 15 minutes. Communion is taking a very long period of time due to the large number of people in attendance. It was also reported that "guest speakers" are talking after the announcements which is driving up the time. Fr. Bill reported he did not know about the guest speakers. They were not being approved in advance.

The other issue causing the problem is that the gym is now in use on Sunday mornings. David Lees reported that council had passed a policy a long time ago that the gym may not be used on Sundays until ½ hour after the conclusion of the last Sunday Mass which currently would be 1:30 PM. Mass should be the only event going on Sunday mornings.

There was some discussion as to how the sports teams are gaining access to the gym without approval. It was stated that CYO is setting the tournament times and we are locked in. Fr. Bill stated they should know better and he had not approved the use of the gym on Sunday mornings.

Fr. Bill said in conclusion we probably need to look at moving the Noon Mass back to 12:15PM. This is a topic that needs to be taken up by the Worship Commission.

The meeting closed at 8:42 PM with a prayer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 14, at 7:00 PM in the Library.